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Penn Annual Conference

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health danger

mally cause the reaction seen in humans. When a bitch is pregnant, after the forty-second day of gestation, these larvae migrate to the fetus where they settle in the liver. Once a puppy is born, the larvae migrate to the lung and from there into the trachea where they are swallowed. They develop into adults in the small intestine.

By the time a puppy is three weeks old it has adult roundworms which are capable of laying eggs. These worms can live up to six months and a female can produce up to 200,000 eggs a day. Puppies may receive additional larvae from the bitch while nursing, through transmammary migration. This influx reaches its peak at the second week of the puppy's life and ends about thirty-two days after birth. These larvae will also mature into reproductive adult roundworms.

Roundworm eggs are not infective until they have embryonated. This process takes between two to five weeks. Embryonated eggs, when ingested by humans or animals, hatch larvae. It was found that unembryonated eggs can survive for years if conditions are favorable. So far no agent, other than extreme heat, has been found to destroy the eggs. They can remain in the soil and embryonate later when environmental conditions are favorable.

By the time a puppy is five weeks old it has begun to develop an immunity toward roundworm. Most of the ingested larvae no longer develop into worms but instead migrate to tissues to resume migration if the host is female and becomes pregnant. Then the cycle begins anew. It has been shown that adult dogs, other than lactating bitches, rarely have roundworm infestations.

Common practice is to worm puppies at six and eight weeks of age. However, by then a puppy has shed millions of eggs. Dr. Glickman advocates worming puppies and nursing bitches for the first time when the litter is two

weeks old. There should be subsequent wormings at four, six, and eight weeks. This practice eliminates most of the adult roundworms in puppies and greatly reduces the shedding of eggs.

Dr. Schantz and his colleagues at the Centers for Disease Control conducted a random survey of 100 veterinarians to find out what worming routines were recommended to clients. They found that only 7 percent of the veterinarians surveyed recommended the worming of puppies at less than three weeks of age; 34 percent recommended worming by the fourth week, and the balance of the sample recommended worming between six and eight weeks. It was also discovered that 77 percent of the veterinarians would not treat for roundworm without a fecal sample; only 23 percent routinely wormed puppies without a sample.

"The veterinarians can have an important role in eliminating this public health hazard by routinely recommending to their clients that the puppies and the bitch are wormed at two, four, six, and eight weeks," Dr. Glickman said. "The veterinarian has to educate his clients and explain the hazards of *Toxocara* infection and the importance of keeping the whelping area and the yard cleaned up to prevent eggs from settling into the soil."

Dr. Glickman goes a step further. He advocates that each puppy which is placed in a new home be accompanied by a certificate stating that it has been wormed and is free of the parasite. He feels that this should be law and should apply to all puppies, whether they come from a private breeder, a pet shop, or an animal shelter. He also advocates strict enforcement of leash laws and greater efforts to eliminate the stray dog population. Such preventive measures, together with early worming of all puppies, would decrease the incidence of OLM and VLM in children and reduce the stigma of dogs as a public health hazard.

We're getting older, bigger, and better! As the School nears 100 years, a very special Penn Annual Conference is planned for January 25 and 26, 1984, at the Franklin Plaza Hotel in Center City Philadelphia—and if the 1983 Penn Annual Conference is an indication, we can expect a turn-out large enough to warm the whole month of January.

The 1983 Conference held at the Philadelphia Hilton attracted 800 participants including: 450 practitioners, 100 speakers and faculty, 100 students, and 60 scientific exhibits staffed by 120 representatives.

Small Animal topics covered a variety of medical and surgical problems such as: bleeding and skin disorders, epilepsy, parasitology, anesthesia, radiology, hormone imbalances, and human/animal interactions. Dr. Bradford Smith, from the University of California School of Veterinary Medicine, spoke on equine salmonellosis, liver diseases, and pneumonia in foals. Other large animal topics included bovine orthopaedic problems, bovine medicine, calf diarrhea, equine botulism, radiology, and ophthalmology.

The Robert S. Brodey Memorial Lecture was presented by Dr. William Hardy, Head of the Laboratory of Veterinary Oncology at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. Dr. Hardy lectured before an audience of over 300 on Retroviruses and Animal Cancer Genes.

During intermissions and lunch, senior veterinary students had time to meet future employers. Sixty practitioners (37 Small Animal, 21 Mixed Practice, 2 Large Animal) requested interviews with students to fill positions in their practice. The students supervised the interview schedule from a private interview room. The School is proud to be able to help its students and area practitioners find mutually beneficial employment opportunities via the Penn Annual Conference.

Another important function of the Penn Annual Conference is to allow students, faculty, practitioners, and staff to meet and mingle in an informal atmosphere. On Wednesday evening, January 26, the Dean hosted a reception and buffet where conversation ranged from sports, finances, and auto repairs to complex medical and surgical problems.

Twenty auto-tutorial programs were available in a private screening room for those who wanted a break from the lecture format. Video and slide programs on Orthopaedic and Soft Tissue Surgery, Exotic Animals, Rabies, Lameness, Conformation, Gait, Biopsy Techniques and Chest Tube Placement were popular items with practitioners.

The Penn Annual Conference offers ten hours of continuing education credit, thus fulfilling the requirement for relicensure in Pennsylvania.

Toxocara cati

